

of an executive agency shall include a notice to the contractor that the contractor may have obligations under chapter 43 of title 38."

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for such chapter is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

"2334. Notice to contractors of potential obligations relating to employment and reemployment of members of the armed forces."

SEC. 405. COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES STUDY ON EFFECTIVENESS OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS OF EDUCATION AND OUTREACH ON EMPLOYER OBLIGATIONS UNDER USERRA.

(a) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on the effectiveness of Federal programs of education and outreach on employer obligations under chapter 43 of title 38, United States Code.

(b) CONTENTS OF STUDY.—In carrying out the study required by subsection (a), the Comptroller General shall—

(1) assess current practices and procedures of Federal agencies for educating employers about their obligations under chapter 43 of title 38, United States Code;

(2) identify best practices for bringing the employment practices of small businesses into compliance with such chapter;

(3) determine whether the Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve, the Small Business Administration, or other agencies could collaborate to develop a program to educate employers regarding their obligations under such chapter; and

(4) determine the effect on recruitment and retention in the National Guard and Reserves of the failure of employers to meet their reemployment obligations under such chapter.

(c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than June 30, 2010, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress a report on the study conducted under subsection (a), including the following:

(1) The findings of the Comptroller General with respect to such study.

(2) The recommendations of the Comptroller General for the improvement of education and outreach for employers with respect to their obligations under chapter 43 of title 38, United States Code.

SEC. 406. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.

(a) AMENDMENT TO CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995.—Section 206(b) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1316(b)) is amended by striking "under paragraphs (1), (2)(A), and (3) of section 4323(c) of title 38, United States Code" and inserting "under section 4323(d) of title 38, United States Code".

(b) AMENDMENT TO SECTION 416 OF TITLE 3, UNITED STATES CODE.—Section 416(b) of title 3, United States Code, is amended by striking "under paragraphs (1) and (2)(A) of section 4323(c) of title 38" and inserting "under section 4323(d) of title 38".

(c) AMENDMENT TO SECTION 4324 OF TITLE 38, UNITED STATES CODE.—Section 4324(b)(4) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting before the period the following: "declining to initiate an action and represent the person before the Merit Systems Protection Board".

TITLE V—BURIAL AND MEMORIAL MATTERS

SEC. 501. INCREASE IN CERTAIN BURIAL AND FUNERAL BENEFITS AND PLOT ALLOWANCES FOR VETERANS.

(a) INCREASE IN BURIAL AND FUNERAL EXPENSES FOR DEATHS IN DEPARTMENT FACILITIES.—Section 2303(a)(1)(A) is amended by striking "\$300" and inserting "\$745 (as increased from time to time under subsection (c))".

(b) INCREASE IN AMOUNT OF PLOT ALLOWANCES.—Section 2303(b) is amended by striking "\$300" each place it appears and inserting "\$745 (as increased from time to time under subsection (c))".

(c) ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT.—Section 2303 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(c) With respect to any fiscal year, the Secretary shall provide a percentage increase (rounded to the nearest dollar) in the burial and funeral expenses under subsection (a) and in the plot allowance under subsection (b), equal to the percentage by which—

"(1) the Consumer Price Index (all items, United States city average) for the 12-month period ending on the June 30 preceding the beginning of the fiscal year for which the increase is made, exceeds

"(2) the Consumer Price Index for the 12-month period preceding the 12-month period described in paragraph (1)."

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to deaths occurring on or after October 1, 2010.

(2) PROHIBITION ON COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2011.—No adjustments shall be made under section 2303(c) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (c), for fiscal year 2011.

TITLE VI—OTHER MATTERS

SEC. 601. NATIONAL ACADEMIES REVIEW OF BEST TREATMENTS FOR GULF WAR ILLNESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall enter into a contract with the Institute of Medicine of the National Academies to conduct a comprehensive review of the best treatments for Gulf War Illness.

(b) GROUP OF MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS.—In conducting the study required under subsection (a), the Institute of Medicine shall convene a group of medical professionals who are experienced in treating individuals diagnosed with Gulf War illness as follows:

(1) Members of the Armed Forces who served during the Persian Gulf War in the Southwest Asia theater of operations.

(2) Members of the Armed Forces who served in the Post 9/11 Global Operations theaters.

(c) REPORTS.—The contract required by subsection (a) shall require the Institute of Medicine to submit to the Secretary and to the appropriate committees of Congress a report on the review required under subsection (a) not later than December 31, 2011. The final report shall include such recommendations for legislative or administrative action as the Institute considers appropriate in light of the results of the review.

(d) FUNDING.—The Secretary shall provide the Institute of Medicine with such funds as are necessary to ensure the timely completion of the review required under subsection (a).

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term "appropriate committees of Congress" means—

(A) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) GULF WAR ILLNESS.—The term "Gulf War Illness" means a medically unexplained chronic multisymptom illness, such as chronic fatigue syndrome, fibromyalgia, and irritable bowel syndrome, that is defined by a cluster of signs or symptoms relating to service in the Persian Gulf War or Post 9/11 Global Operations theaters.

(3) PERSIAN GULF WAR.—The term "Persian Gulf War" has the meaning given that term in section 101(33) of title 38, United States Code.

(4) POST 9/11 GLOBAL OPERATIONS THEATERS.—The term "Post 9/11 Global Operations theaters" means Afghanistan, Iraq, or any other theater in which the Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal is awarded for service.

SEC. 602. EXTENSION OF NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES REVIEWS AND EVALUATIONS REGARDING ILLNESS AND SERVICE IN PERSIAN GULF WAR.

(a) REVIEW AND EVALUATION OF TOXIC DRUGS AND ILLNESSES ASSOCIATED WITH PERSIAN GULF

WAR.—Section 1603(j) of the Persian Gulf War Veterans Act of 1998 (38 U.S.C. 1117 note) is amended by striking "October 1, 2010" and inserting "October 1, 2015".

(b) REVIEW AND EVALUATION OF AVAILABLE EVIDENCE REGARDING ILLNESS AND SERVICE IN PERSIAN GULF WAR.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 101(j) of the Veterans Programs Enhancement Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-368; 112 Stat. 3321) is amended by striking "11 years after" and all that follows through "under subsection (b)" and inserting "on October 1, 2018".

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1604 of the Persian Gulf War Veterans Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-277; 38 U.S.C. 1117 note) is repealed.

SEC. 603. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR REGIONAL OFFICE IN REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES.

Section 315(b) is amended by striking "December 31, 2009" and inserting "December 31, 2011".

SEC. 604. AGGREGATE AMOUNT OF EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE TO INDIVIDUALS WHO RECEIVE BOTH SURVIVORS' AND DEPENDENTS' EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE AND OTHER VETERANS AND RELATED EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) AGGREGATE AMOUNT AVAILABLE.—Section 3695 is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(4), by striking "35,"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(c) The aggregate period for which any person may receive assistance under chapter 35 of this title, on the one hand, and any of the provisions of law referred to in subsection (a), on the other hand, may not exceed 81 months (or the part-time equivalent thereof)."

(b) APPLICABILITY.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on October 1, 2010, and shall not operate to revive any entitlement to assistance under chapter 35 of title 38, United States Code, or the provisions of law referred to in section 3695(a) of such title, as in effect on the day before such date, that was terminated by reason of the operation of section 3695(a) of such title, as so in effect, before such date.

(c) REVIVAL OF ENTITLEMENT REDUCED BY PRIOR UTILIZATION OF CHAPTER 35 ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), in the case of an individual whose period of entitlement to assistance under a provision of law referred to in section 3695(a) of title 38, United States Code (other than chapter 35 of such title), as in effect on September 30, 2010, was reduced under such section 3695(a), as so in effect, by reason of the utilization of entitlement to assistance under chapter 35 of such title before October 1, 2010, the period of entitlement to assistance of such individual under such provision shall be determined without regard to any entitlement so utilized by the individual under chapter 35 of such title.

(2) LIMITATION.—The maximum period of entitlement to assistance of an individual under paragraph (1) may not exceed 81 months.

SEC. 605. TECHNICAL CORRECTION.

Section 5503(c) is amended by striking "veterans'" and inserting "veteran's".

NATIONAL RUNAWAY PREVENTION MONTH

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to consideration of S. Res. 308, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 308) recognizing and supporting the goals and ideals of National Runaway Prevention Month.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. BENNET. I ask unanimous consent the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 308) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 308

Whereas the number of runaway and homeless youth in the United States is staggering, with studies suggesting that between 1,600,000 and 2,800,000 youth live on the streets each year;

Whereas the problem of children who run away from home is widespread, as youth between 12 and 17 years of age are at a higher risk of homelessness than adults;

Whereas runaway youth are often expelled from their homes by their families, discharged by State custodial systems without adequate transition plans, separated from their parents by death and divorce, or physically, sexually, and emotionally abused at home;

Whereas runaway youth are often too poor to secure their own basic needs and are ineligible or unable to access adequate medical or mental health resources;

Whereas effective programs that provide support to runaway youth and assist them in remaining at home with their families can succeed through partnerships created among families, community-based human service agencies, law enforcement agencies, schools, faith-based organizations, and businesses;

Whereas preventing youth from running away from home and supporting youth in high-risk situations is a family, community, and national priority;

Whereas the future of the Nation is dependent on providing opportunities for youth to acquire the knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary to develop into safe, healthy, and productive adults;

Whereas the National Network for Youth and its members advocate on behalf of runaway and homeless youth and provide an array of community-based support to address their critical needs;

Whereas the National Runaway Switchboard provides crisis intervention and referrals to reconnect runaway youth with their

families and link youth to local resources that provide positive alternatives to running away from home; and

Whereas during the month of November, the National Network for Youth and the National Runaway Switchboard are co-sponsoring National Runaway Prevention Month, in order to increase public awareness of the circumstances faced by youth in high-risk situations and to address the need to provide resources and support for safe, healthy, and productive alternatives for at-risk youth, their families, and their communities: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes and supports the goals and ideals of National Runaway Prevention Month.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 458, the nomination of Paul Fishman to be U.S. attorney for New Jersey; that the nomination be confirmed and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table; that no further motions be in order and any statements relating to the nomination be printed in the Record; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nomination considered and confirmed is as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Paul Joseph Fishman, of New Jersey, to be United States Attorney for the District of New Jersey for the term of four years.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will resume legislative session.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2009

Mr. BENNET. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Sen-

ate completes its business today, it adjourn until 9:30 a.m. tomorrow, Thursday, October 8; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate proceed to a period of morning business for 1 hour, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each, with the time equally divided and controlled between the two leaders or their designees, with the Republicans controlling the first half and the majority controlling the final half; that following morning business, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 2847, the Commerce-Justice-Science appropriations bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 9:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. BENNET. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it adjourn under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:02 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, October 8, 2009, at 9:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nomination received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

PATRICK GALLAGHER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY, VICE WILLIAM ALAN JEFFREY.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate, October 7, 2009:

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

PAUL JOSEPH FISHMAN, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS.